



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/730,034	12/04/2000	Alex D. Poon	3801.P011	6836

7590 03/19/2004

Marina Portnova  
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP  
7th Floor  
12400 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

EXAMINER
----------

KAPADIA, MILAN S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2144

DATE MAILED: 03/19/2004

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/730,034

Applicant(s)

POON, ALEX D.

Examiner

Milan S Kapadia

Art Unit

2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4-6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### Notice to Applicant

1. This communication is in response to the application filed 04 December 2000. Claims 1-26 are pending.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1-26 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by French et al. (6,263,447).

Art Unit: 2144

(A) As per claim 1, French teaches a method for facilitating user registration in a network-based transaction facility, the method comprising:

identifying the user associated with a registration process within the network-based transaction facility (French; abstract and col. 6, lines 14-24);

assigning a verification rating to the user based on accuracy of registration information submitted by the user during the registration process (French; col. 7, lines 4-12 and col. 11, line 28-col. 12, line 29; the Examiner interprets the “authenticity certainty score” as the “verification rating”; and

registering the user with the network-based transaction facility if the verification rating exceeds a predetermined threshold (French; col. 12, lines 25-29 and col. 14, lines 25-31).

(B) As per claim 2, French teaches wherein assigning the verification rating further comprises:

performing a set of validity checks on the registration information of the user (French; col. 7, line 46-col. 11, line 27;

determining a result of each validity check within the set of validity checks (French; col. 7, line 46-col. 11, line 27 and col. 12, lines 30-37; and

calculating the verification rating based on the result of each validity check (French; col. 11, line 28-col. 12, line 29).

Art Unit: 2144

(C) As per claim 3, French teaches wherein each validity check verifies validity of a corresponding piece of the registration information of the user (French; col. 7, line 46-col. 11, line 37).

As per claim 4, French teaches utilizing a set of verification rules to define the set of validity checks, and translating the result of each validity check into a numerical value (French; col. 2, lines 48-56 and col. 12, lines 14-29).

(D) As per claim 5, French teaches creating a verification detail record using the result of each validity check; and storing the verification record in a database (French; figure 13-16 and col. 5, line 66col. 6, line 9).

(E) As per claim 6, French teaches storing the verification rating of the user in a database (French; figure 13-16 and col. 5, line 66col. 6, line 9).

(F) As per claims 7 and 8, French teaches wherein the registration information comprises demographic information of the user and maintaining a database of valid demographic information and determining whether demographic information entered by the user matches any of the valid demographic information from the database (French; Table 1 and col. 11, lines 38-51).

(G) As per claims 9 and 10, French teaches wherein the valid demographic information defines correlation between a plurality of area codes and a plurality of location information and wherein each of the plurality of location information includes

Art Unit: 2144

any one of the group comprising country information, zip code information, state information, city information, tie zone information, latitude information, and longitude information (French; col. 7, lines 58-64 and col. 11, lines 38-51).

(H) As per claim 11, French teaches wherein the valid demographic information defines correlation between a plurality of area codes and a plurality of location information (French; col. 11, lines 38-51).

(I) As per claim 12, French teaches providing user interface information to the user via a communications network, the user interface information specifying a registration interface for obtaining registration of the user (French; col. 5, lines 33-43 and col. 6, lines 13-34).

(J) System claim 13 repeats the subject matter of method claim 1, as a set of apparatus elements rather than a series of steps. As the underlying processes of claim 1 has been shown to be fully disclosed by the teachings of French in the above rejections of claim 1, it is readily apparent that the system disclosed by French includes the apparatus to perform these functions. As such, these limitations are rejected for the same reasons given above for method claim 1, and incorporated herein.

(K) System claims 14-25 repeat the subject matter of method claims 4, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, respectively, as a set of apparatus elements rather than a series of steps. As the underlying processes of claims 1-12 have been shown to be fully disclosed

Art Unit: 2144

by the teachings of French in the above rejections of claims 1-12, it is readily apparent that the system disclosed by French includes the apparatus to perform these functions. As such, these limitations are rejected for the same reasons given above for method claims 1-12, and incorporated herein.

(L) Claim 26 differs from apparatus claim 13 by reciting “a computer readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed on a processor...” in the preamble. As per this limitation, French’s system is implemented on a computer, as it is directed to synthesizing speech automatically (French; col. 5, lines 43-49). As such, French implicitly includes computer elements such as a programmed computer readable medium. The remainder of claim 26 repeats the limitations of claim 13, and are therefore rejected for the same reasons given above for claim 13.

### *Conclusion*

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited but not applied art teaches a method and system for processing and transmitting electronic auction information (5,835,896); a transaction authorization system (6,675,153); online auction system (“Amazon.co.uk launches auctions and zShops for UK shoppers and sellers,” M2 Presswire, Nov. 5, 1999); an auction website (“Bidder Beware,” U.S. News & World Report, September 17, 1999); a person-to-person trading site (“eBay launches the Most Comprehensive Trust and Safety Upgrades to The World’s Largest Person-To-Person Trading Site,” PR Newswire, January 15, 1999); a method of automatic verification of persona; identity (5,719,560); a

Art Unit: 2144

distributed live auction (6,449,601); and a system and method for providing trusted brokering services over a distributed network (5,815,665).


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Milan S Kapadia whose telephone number is 703-305-3887. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on 703-308-5221. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

  
mk

March 3, 2004

  
DAVID WILEY  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100